

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 5, 2002

The Honorable James Nussle
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

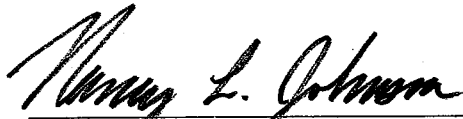
Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is currently protected against additional oil and gas exploration or development. Nevertheless, the Bush Administration has just sent to Congress a budget that assumes an auction of oil and gas leases within the boundaries of the Refuge, specifically within the area that defines one of the most magnificent and rare unspoiled ecosystems in the world. This assumed proposal would sacrifice the pristine nature of this existing wilderness for a limited supply of oil and an increase in federal receipts of an estimated \$1.2 billion.

Because of the unique nature of this natural treasure, Congress in 1980 prohibited oil and gas exploration or production on the coastal plain of the Refuge. Repealing these protections is opposed by millions of Americans, Republicans and Democrats alike. Because of this widespread opposition, we believe it would be imprudent to assume any new revenue from this source at this time. When you consider the environmental values at stake in this extraordinary wilderness area, we believe it would be a mistake to open the Refuge to development.

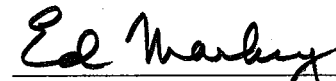
We strongly urge you to reject the Administration's request to assume revenue from drilling activity that is prohibited under current law and widely opposed throughout America. If the law ever changes, there will be plenty of time to incorporate new assumptions regarding federal revenue from this source in subsequent budgets.


Sincerely,

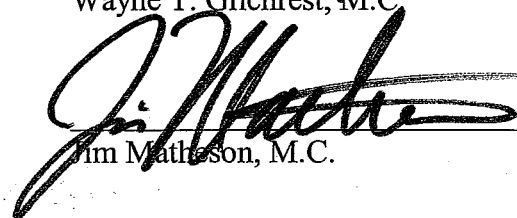

Nancy L. Johnson, M.C.

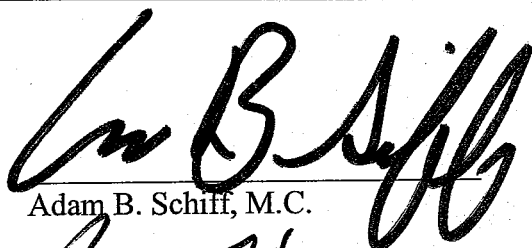

Charles F. Bass, M.C.

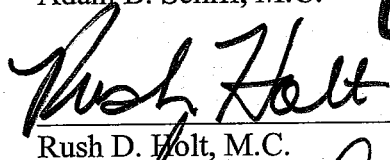

Barbara Lee, M.C.

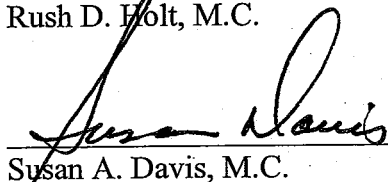

Edward J. Markey, M.C.

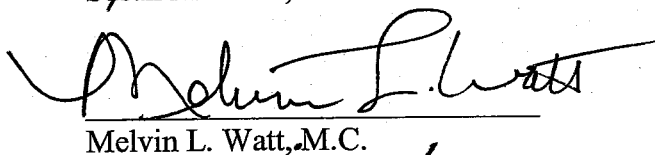

Wayne T. Gilchrest, M.C.

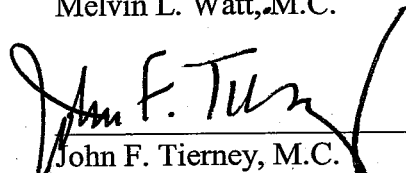

Jim Matheson, M.C.

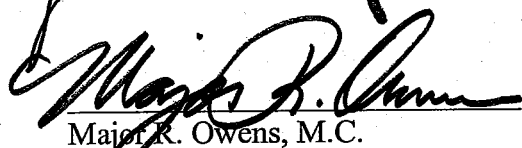

Adam B. Schiff, M.C.

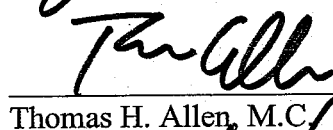

Rush D. Holt, M.C.

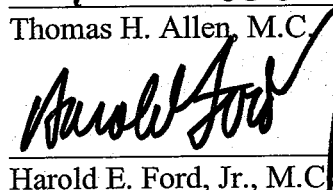

Susan A. Davis, M.C.

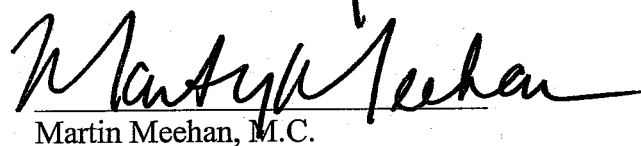

Melvin L. Watt, M.C.


John F. Tierney, M.C.


Major R. Owens, M.C.

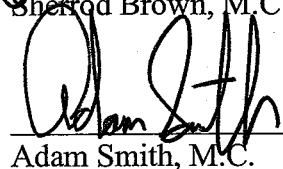

Thomas H. Allen, M.C.


Harold E. Ford, Jr., M.C.

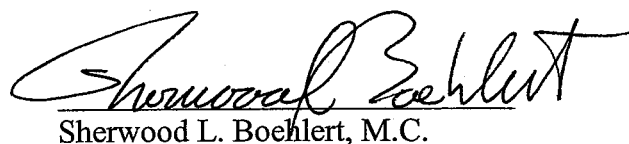

Martin Meehan, M.C.

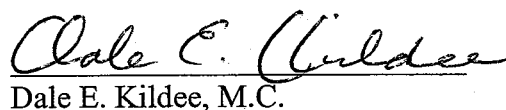

Rosa L. DeLauro, M.C.

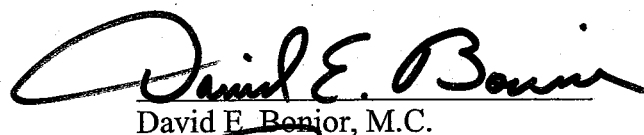

Sherrod Brown, M.C.

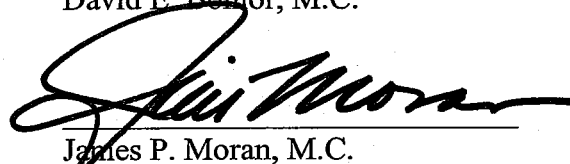

Adam Smith, M.C.


Eliot L. Engel, M.C.

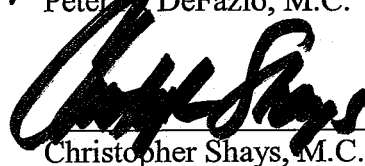

Sherwood L. Boehlert, M.C.

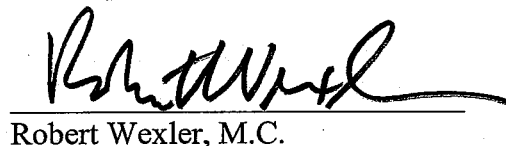

Dale E. Kildee, M.C.


David E. Bonior, M.C.

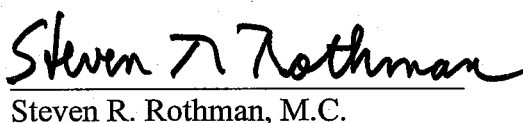

James P. Moran, M.C.


Peter DeFazio, M.C.

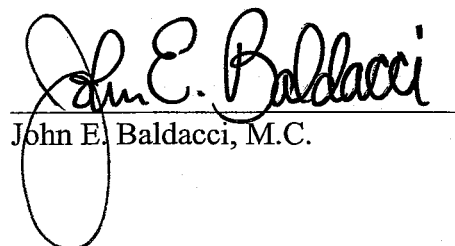

Christopher Shays, M.C.


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Lois Capps, M.C.


Steven R. Rothman, M.C.


Robert T. Matsui, M.C.


John E. Baldacci, M.C.

Mark Udall

Mark Udall, M.C.

Lynn N. Rivers

Lynn N. Rivers, M.C.

Earl Blumenauer

Earl Blumenauer, M.C.

Lynn Woolsey

Lynn C. Woolsey, M.C.

James Greenwood

James C. Greenwood, M.C.

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Frank Pallone, Jr., M.C.

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